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PROGRAM The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour

STATION WETA-TV
PBS Network

DATE March 11, 1985 7:00 P.M.

CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Mikhail Gorbachev/U.S.-Soviet Relations

ROBERT MACNEIL: We talk about the new Soviet leader now with two men, an American and a Soviet, who met and worked with Mikhail Gorbachev. The American is John Kristol (?), President of Bankers Trust Bank of Des Moines, Iowa. Mr. Kristol's uncle received former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev at his Iowa farm in 1959. Since then, John Kristol has made a number of trips to the Soviet Union. He met Gorbachev first in 1981, and then again in '83, when Gorbachev had responsibility for Soviet agricultural production. He joins us now from Des Moines at the studios of Iowa Public Television.

Former Soviet diplomat Arkady Shevchenko also has met Gorbachev. Shevchenko is the highest Soviet official ever to defect to the West, leaving his United Nations post in 1978. He's the author of the recently published book Breaking with Moscow.

Mr. Kristol in Des Moines, as I say, you've met and talked with Gorbachev for quite long periods. What kind of a man did you make him out to be?

JOHN KRISTOL: He was civil, intelligent, perfectly capable of measuring the faults of the agricultural economy of the Soviet Union, and I think a man who thought that a good economy was good politics.

MACNEIL: Margaret Thatcher also said, besides what we just heard, that he was a man she thought she could deal with. Is he the kind of man you could deal with?

KRISTOL: Yes, I think so. I felt comfortable with him. And while I've only spent four or five hours with him, the

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